

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1-10 are amended, and claims 11-16 are added. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Finish Patent Application No. 20030001. The Applicants submitted a certified copy of the priority document on April 2, 2004, however, the Office Action indicates that only some of the certified copies have been received. Clarification is requested in the next official communication.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 9, 2004, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Amendments to the Specification

The first and second paragraphs on page 1 of the specification have been amended in order to place them in a form more typical of U.S. practice.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-10 because of several informalities. In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended claims 1-10 in order to address the issues pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 2, 3, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, and 6 to address each of the issues pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Schroder (U.S. 5,096,355). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 6

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of steps directed to a method for storing loads, including

a providing a storage apparatus, and a load manipulating device;

bringing in and storing the loads in the storage apparatus, and taking out the loads from the storage apparatus by means of the load manipulating device for further processing; providing at least two separate carriage units, each having at least one lifting unit; and moving the lifting units of the at least two separate carriage units in an at least a substantially synchronized manner relative to each other in order to move at least one load at a time into the storage apparatus and/or out of the storage apparatus.

In a similar manner, independent claim 6 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a apparatus for storing loads, including

a storage apparatus;
a load manipulating device for bringing and storing the loads into the storage apparatus and for taking out the loads from the storage apparatus for further processing; and
at least two separate carriage units each having a lifting element, the lifting elements working in an at least substantially synchronized manner relative to each other, and the lifting elements being arranged to move together to move at least one load when necessary.

Support for the novel features set forth in each of claims 1 and 6 can be seen in FIG. 7.

By contrast, as can be seen in Schroder FIGS. 4, 6, and 7, this document merely discloses a paper roll trolley 70 and paper roll supporting plate 71 which moves up and down, and supporting rails 83, 84 which do not move up and down.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of steps/elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 6 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Schroder.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2-5, and 7-10 are amended to place them in better form, and dependent claims 11-16 are added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

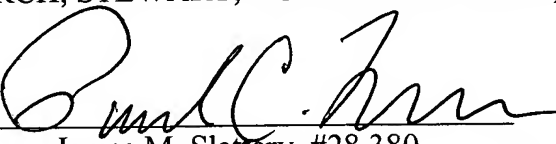
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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